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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 IGA-02 DPW-01 EB-11 /186 W
---------- 054345
R 061800Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9344
INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USLO PEKING
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: EAID, XC, VS, BE
SUB: VIETNAM - BELGIAN INTEREST IN OUTLOOK AND AID INITIATIVE

1. FONMIN COUNSELOR FOR FE BLANCQUAERT TOLD EMBOFFS DURING COURTESY CALL BY POLCONS DEC 4 THAT BELGIANS WERE CONTEMPLATING EFFORT TO GET SOME MULTILATERAL AID PROGRAM GOING FOR VIETNAM AND SEA. HE SAID MEKONG PROJECT MIGHT BE VEHICLE. HE NOTED THAT EVEN MODEST BILATERAL AID PROGRAM WAS DIFFICULT TO INITIATE BECAUSE OF LACK OF AID FORMULA PERMITTING NVN PARTICIPATION, VIOLENCE IN SVN, AND ATTENTION FOCUSED ON APPARENTLY STAGNANT IBRD CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL. FUNDS WAS FURTHER PROBLEM. HE ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING GENERAL SITUATION IN SVN OR US VIEWS RE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

2. EMBOFF NOTED RECENT STATEMENTS OF USG'S "STRONG CONCERN" ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF CEASE FIRE BUT SAID THEY HAD NO RECENT
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INFORMATION ABOUT ASSISTANCE PROBLEM OTHER THAN THAT IN PRESS. EMB

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OFF SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SURELY AID SHOULD NOT AWAIT A CALM SVN. EMBOFF, ON BASIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, NOTED EXTREME PROBLEM THAT LACK OF WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN SVN, OTHER THAN AT SAIGON, POSED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ASKED IF BELGIANS MIGHT CONSIDER ACTION IN THAT IMPORTANT BUT NONCONTROVERSIAL AREA. BLANCQUAERT INDICATED SOME INTEREST IN THAT IDEA.

3. BLANCQUAERT ALSO EXPRESSED CURIOUSITY ABOUT MEANING OF REPORT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM PEKING THAT NVN HAD REFUSED TO PERMIT CANADIAN AND DUTCH AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE WHO ARE ACCREDITED AT PEKING TO TRAVEL TO HANOI THIS WEEK TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, BLANCQUAERT SAID HE DID NOT INTERPRET NVN REFUSAL TO RECEIVE AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE AS SHIFT IN HANOI ATTITUDE TOWARD DUAL ACCREDITATION. EMBOFFS RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE LINKED TO NEW NVN MOVE AGAINST SVN.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

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